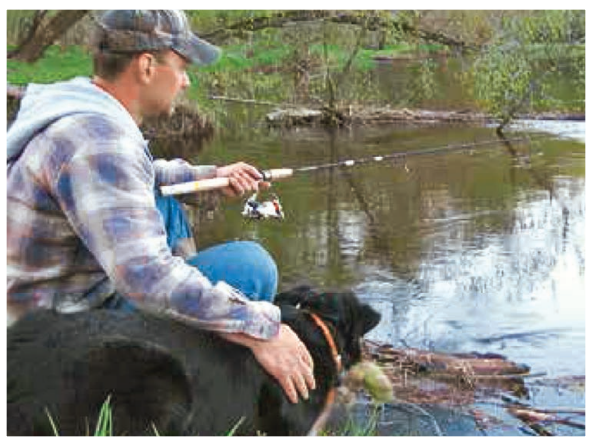


Year-round recreational opportunities in the Black River State Forest



FISHING:

Northern pike, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, catfish and walleye can be found in the Black River and East Fork. Area flowages have sunfish, suckers, bullheads, crappies, largemouth bass and perch. Trout can be found in Halls, Hay and Robinson Creeks.



HUNTING:

Public hunting is allowed throughout most of the property for a variety of wildlife species including: white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, turkey and waterfowl.



MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS:

The State Forest has 33 miles of ATV/UTV trails and 48 miles of snowmobile trails that link up with Jackson County and Clark County for over 200 total miles of trails.



PICNIC AREAS:

Picnic areas can be found at all three family campgrounds. Limited picnic facilities are also available at the Perry Creek Recreation Area and Oxbow pond.



RECREATIONAL TRAILS

There are over 29 miles of hike/bike trails, of which 22 are groomed for skate and classic skiing during winter. Both Pigeon Creek and Castle Mound campgrounds have 1.5-mile interpretive trails. A half-mile trail at Castle Mound winds along castellated bluffs to a scenic overlook. There are 4.5 miles of snowshoe trails, and snowshoeing is allowed anywhere in the state forest that is not a groomed trail.



CANOE/KAYAK:

The Black River from the Hatfield Dam to Halls Creek landing is rocky with Class I, II and sometimes III rapids. From Halls Creek landing to the Black River Dam is smoother with some class I rapids in high water. Below the dam is calm with sandbars and unique rock formations along some banks.



CAMPING:

Three family campgrounds and two group camps provide year-round camping opportunities. Castle Mound Campground has fourteen electric sites and a shower/flush toilet building. East Fork and Pigeon Creek Campgrounds are rustic campgrounds with vault toilet buildings and hand-pump water. The Indoor Group Camp has a four-season cabin that sleeps twelve individuals and an outdoor area that accommodates a maximum of 50 individuals. The rustic Outdoor Group Camp also accommodates up to 50 individuals.

Primitive camping or backpacking is allowed throughout the State Forest with a special camping permit that must be filled out prior to camping. This permit is free and can be found on the State Forest website (dnr.wi.gov/topic/stateforests) or by calling the Forest headquarters. Backpackers must camp at least one mile from their parked vehicle and 100 feet from any trail.

INTERNATIONAL RIVER CLASSIFICATIONS:

Class I: Easy – fast moving water with riffles and small waves.

Class II: Novice – straightforward rapids with wide channels.

Class III: More difficult – rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp a canoe.

A working forest

Forest management has been a major use of the property since the 1950s. The wood products harvested from this forest help support the second largest industry in Wisconsin. Today's harvests are managed by professional foresters who practice sustainable forestry.



Tree harvesting.

Each year, trees are harvested on approximately 1,000 acres in the Black River State Forest. About 300 of these acres are regeneration cuts; the remaining 700 acres are selectively thinned. Thinnings remove poorer quality trees to favor growth on healthier, better-quality trees.

The type of harvest used depends on tree species involved and the age of the stand. Shorter-lived species such as jack pine and aspen are clear cut, as their seedlings need full sunlight to establish a young healthy forest. Longer-lived species such as white pine, red pine and oak are selectively thinned once to several times prior to their final regeneration cut.

The State Forest uses natural regeneration whenever possible. However, in cases where natural regeneration is not adequate, sites are either aerially seeded or trees are planted.



Good forest management creates wildlife habitat.

Come back soon! – and be sure to visit Wisconsin's other Northern State Forests



- 1 Governor Knowles State Forest 715-463-2898
- 2 Brule River State Forest 715-372-5678
- 3 Flambeau River State Forest 715-332-5271
- 4 Northern Highland American Legion State Forest 715-542-3923
- 5 Peshtigo River State Forest 715-757-3965
- 6 Black River State Forest 715-284-4103
- 7 Coulee Experimental State Forest 608-785-9007

Origin of the name "Black River"

Like many northern rivers, the Black River gets its dark color from tannic acid – a stain from the leaves, conifer needles and mosses of this region. Early records indicate the Indian name for the river was "Neosheprah," meaning "Dark River." Around the year 1660, French explorers named the river "La Riviere Noire," meaning "The Black River."



History of the Black River State Forest

The Black River State Forest was established in 1957, after the Federal Government transferred 59,000 acres to the Wisconsin Conservation Department (today the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources). Through further land purchases, the forest has grown to its present size of approximately 68,900 acres. The property contains about 12 miles of the Black River as well as three miles of the Black River's East Fork.

The State Forest lies on the edge of the driftless (unglaciated) area of Wisconsin. Much of the forest landscape was strongly influenced by glaciation. After the glaciers retreated there was nothing to protect the sandy surfaces from erosion and weathering. Today, remnants of eroded Cambrian sandstone protrude above the forest floor forming buttes, sandstone hills and castellated bluffs like Castle Mound.

Like much of Wisconsin, Jackson County was heavily logged during the mid to late 1800s, with the heaviest logging done between 1880 and 1895. After the cutover, settlers poured into the area buying up stump riddled and fire scarred properties, drawn by the promise of rich farm land. Most of these farms had failed by the 1930s due to the sandy soils and major drought conditions.

To help the struggling economy, the federal government purchased some of the farms. As most of the land was too poor for agricultural use, it was decided to manage the land for forestry and wildlife. The Federal Government officially deeded the land over to the State in the 1950s.



Perry Creek view from the trail.



Castellated rock formation at Castle Mound.

BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST

Visitor's Guide 2016

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Ambulance DIAL 911
Black River Memorial Hospital ... 715-284-5361
Poison Control Center 800-222-1222
Jackson County Sheriff 911 or 715-284-5357
Forest Headquarters 715-284-4103



Fall color at Castle Mound.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov (search keyword "state forest")
WDNR Call Center 1-888-936-7463 (toll-free 7 a.m.-10 p.m.)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 267-7494 for more information. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Photos by Kyle Zenz, Emily Alf and Jamie Dahl

DNR PUB-FR-561 2016



BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST

Visitor's Guide



WELCOME!
Here's your guide to the many ways you can enjoy the forest year-round

MAP INSIDE

W10325 Hwy 12 E • Black River Falls WI 54615 • 715-284-4103



dnr.wi.gov
(search keyword "state forest")

DNR PUB-FR-561 2016

Black River State Forest

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- Campground

Canoe Campsite

Paved Boat Launch

Unpaved - Carry In Only

Swimming Area

Picnic Area

Parking Lot

Accessible Fishing Pier

Lookout

Shelter

Sanitary Dump

Interstate Highway

US Highway

State Highway

County Road

Local Road

Unimproved Road

Rail Road

Snowmobile Only

Snowmobile/ATV

Hike, Bike, Cross Country Ski

Nature Trail

Hike & Bike Trail

Snowshoe Trail

State Forest Ownership

BRSF Acquisition Boundary

County Boundary
- Campground

Canoe Campsite

Paved Boat Launch

Unpaved - Carry In Only

Swimming Area

Picnic Area

Parking Lot

Accessible Fishing Pier

Lookout

Shelter

Sanitary Dump

Interstate Highway

US Highway

State Highway

County Road

Local Road

Unimproved Road

Rail Road

Snowmobile Only

Snowmobile/ATV

Hike, Bike, Cross Country Ski

Nature Trail

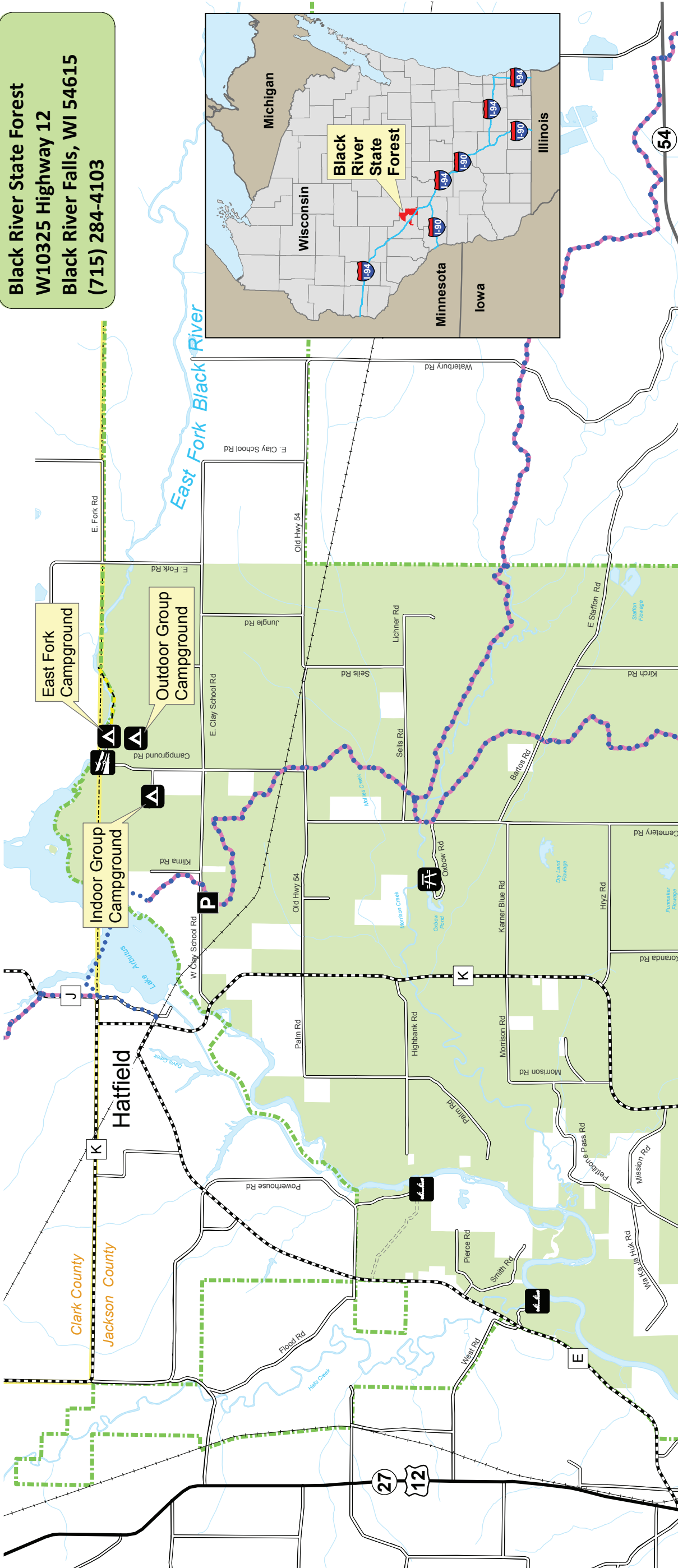
Hike & Bike Trail

Snowshoe Trail

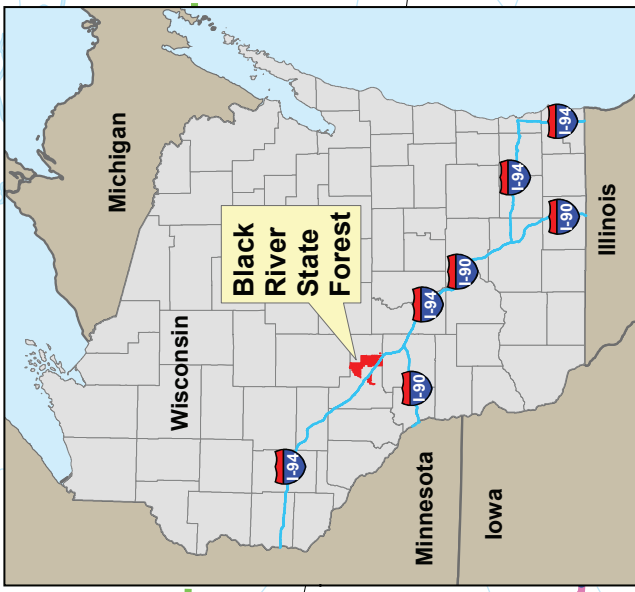
State Forest Ownership

BRSF Acquisition Boundary

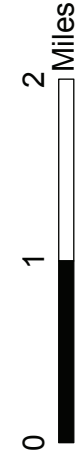
County Boundary



Black River State Forest
W10325 Highway 12
Black River Falls, WI 54615
(715) 284-4103



Recreation Index		Camping Units	Fee Required	Reservations	Electric Sites	Handicap Facilities	Swimming	Fishing	Shelter	Picnic	Drinking Water	Toilets	Motorized Trail Miles	Nature Trail Miles	Mountain Biking Miles	Snowshoe Trail Miles	X-C Ski / Hiking Miles
Campgrounds:	Canoe	2															
	Castle Mound	35	✓	14	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.5	3			
	East Fork	24	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1				
	Indoor Group - Cabin	*	✓	✓													
	Outdoor Group	*	✓	✓													
	Pigeon Creek	38	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.5	5.2	3		
	*See Brochure for Details																
Trails:	Smrekar	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			14	1.6	14	
	Wildcat	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			10		10	
Day Use Areas:	ATV / UTV											33					
	Snowmobile																
	Oxbow							✓	✓								
	Perry Creek							✓	✓								



The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources and are of varying age, reliability, and resolution. This map is not an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access.



DNR map by Ralph Welsch 07/11/2016
Scale: Not to Scale as of 01/15/2016